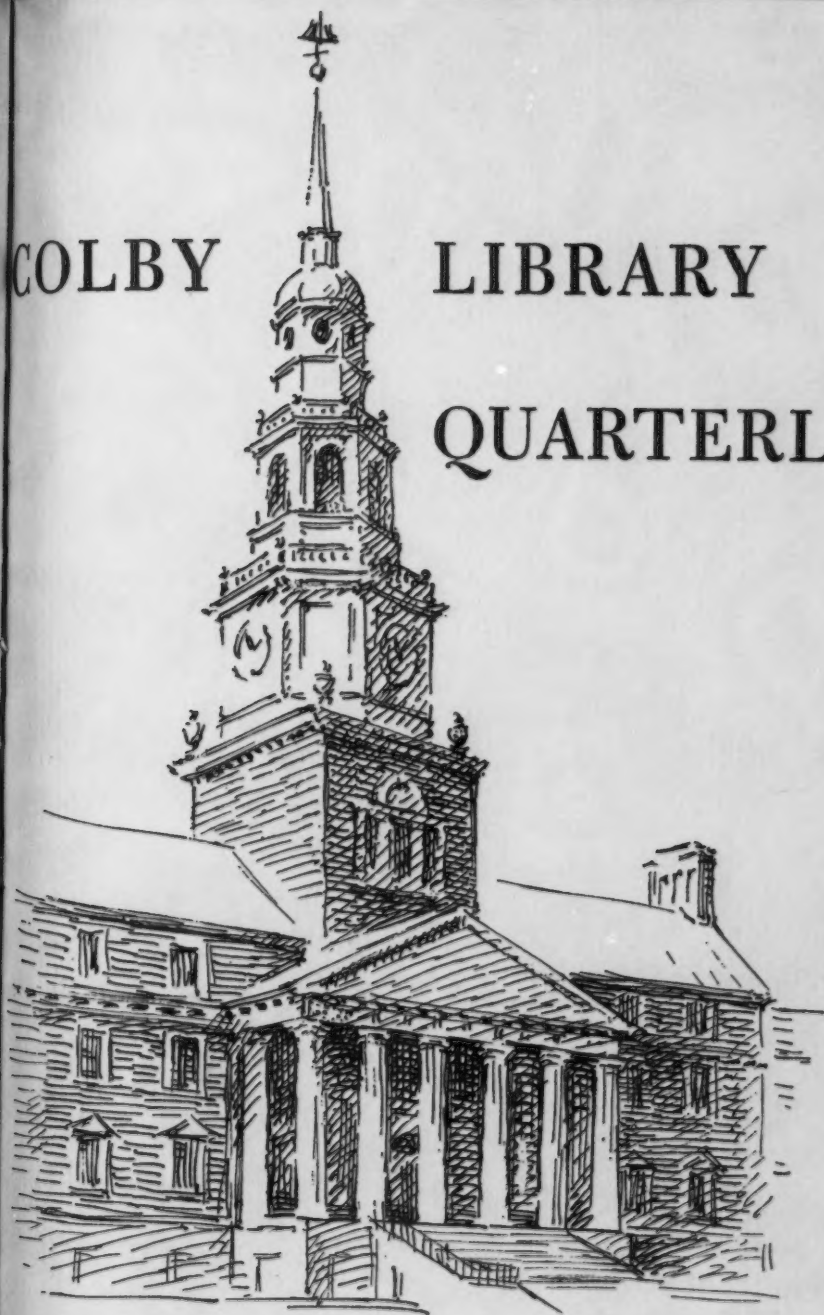


COLBY

LIBRARY

QUARTERLY



JUNE 1959

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## COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Established 1943

Colby College  
Waterville, Maine

Issued March, June,  
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This QUARTERLY is primarily interested in Maine authors (*i.e.*, Sarah Orne Jewett, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Jacob Abbott, Edna St. Vincent Millay) and in Maine history; also in those books and authors from outside Maine (Henry James, Thomas Hardy, A. E. Housman, modern Irish writers, *et al.*) who are well represented by special collections in the Colby College Library or who have exerted an influence on Maine life or letters.

Communications regarding articles in the QUARTERLY should be addressed to the Editor, Richard Cary.

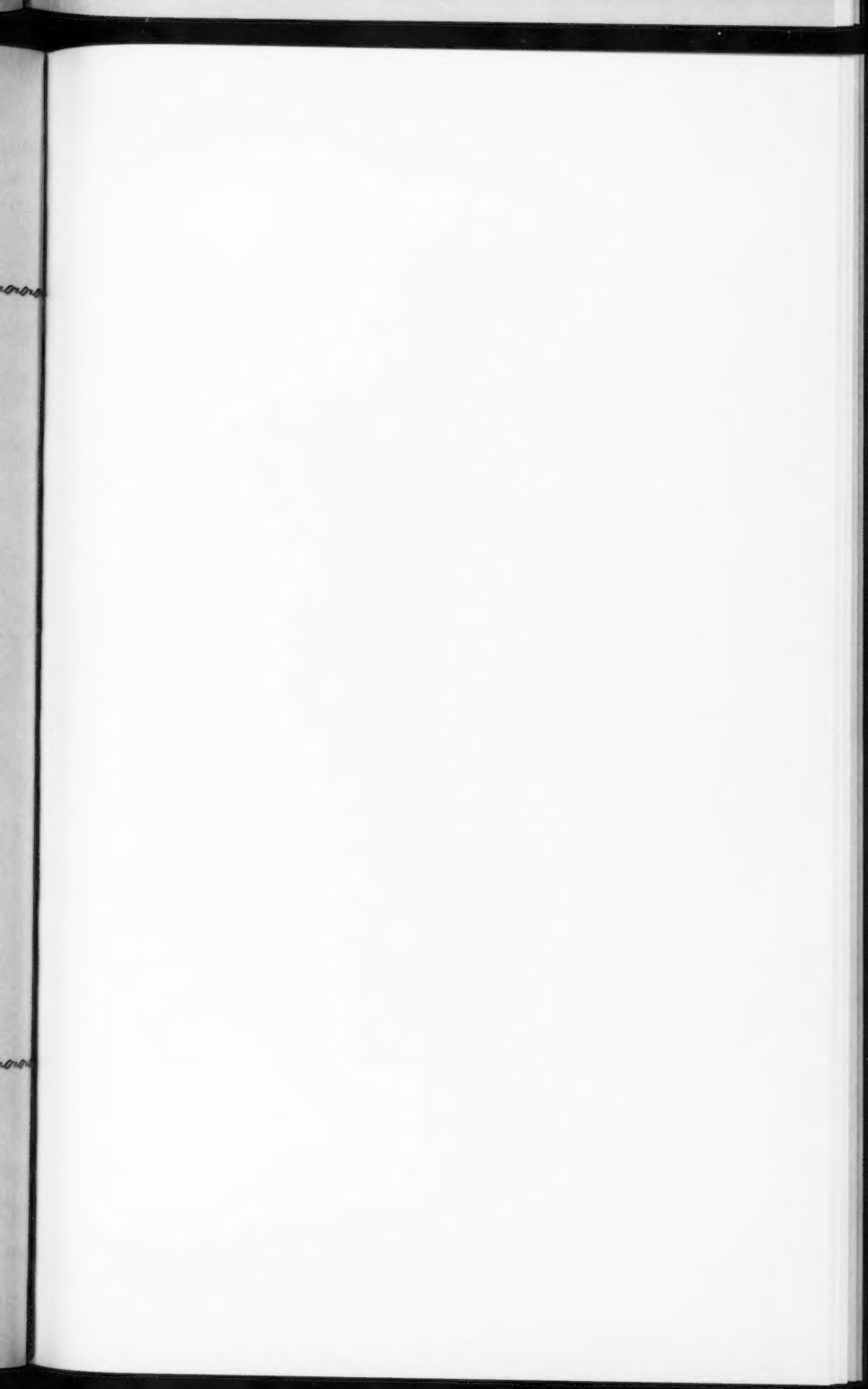
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CARL J. WEBER

at work in the Treasure Room of the Colby College Library. The picture on the wall is a portrait of Edwin Arlington Robinson painted by Lilla Cabot Perry (niece of James Russell Lowell and wife of Thomas Sergeant Perry).

# Colby Library Quarterly

Series V

June 1959

No. 2

## IN HONOR OF CARL J. WEBER

*After four decades of unfaltering service, Professor Carl Jefferson Weber retires from his several positions at Colby College. This issue of the QUARTERLY is in the nature of a Festschrift, a gala of reviews and tributes written by colleagues closely associated with his long, productive career.*

By J. SEELYE BIXLER:

Professor Weber's work is so widely and favorably known outside the Colby campus that it seems not too much to say that many people are aware of the college's existence only because it is his home and working headquarters. Some of his admirers are librarians who watch for each issue of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY and feel that under his editorship it has set a high standard for publications of its type. Others are booklovers who have kept an eye on the growth of the many noteworthy collections that have come to the Edwin Arlington Robinson Treasure Room during his period as curator. Others have observed with respect the work done by the Colby College Press under his direction. Still others, including both trained scholars and general readers, have read with appreciation his studies of Thomas Hardy, and have been introduced to new fields of interest, such as fore-edge paintings, through his enterprising investigations.

In addition to these groups which know him from afar, a large number of former students at Colby are indebted

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to him for the taste for great literature acquired in his classroom. All of these, and his Colby colleagues, join in hoping that his retirement from active service with the college will free his pen for creative work he has long had in mind and will enable him to give unhampered attention to the scholarly studies he is so well equipped to carry on.



By HERBERT ROSS BROWN:

[This Resolution was adopted in honor of Professor Weber by his colleagues in the Faculties of English at Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, and the University of Maine, on April 19, 1958.]

Although I am uneasily aware that there are at least a dozen degree-granting institutions in our State, and that any one who refers to what used to be called "the four Maine colleges" will only confirm the impression that he dwells in an ivory tower, inwardly mossy, I should like to put a motion in behalf of the Faculties of English of those four Maine colleges—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers. . . .

Few enough, certainly, to enable us to know one another fairly intimately as colleagues or as fellow warders of the gate, rather than as one-line entries in six-point type in the annual roster of card-carrying members of the Modern Language Association of America.

Through the years, we have rejoiced in each other's triumphs and nursed each other's wounds, we have viewed with alarm the rise of drum-majorettes and the fall of literacy, and—at these annual meetings—we have cheered each other as we returned to the endless patrol of the comma beat where we hold the dyke against the floods of mediocrity and vulgarity.

In a word—since we are members one of another—the retirement of one of our colleagues is always a poignant occasion of envy and regret. In 1939 we said our hail and

farewell to the stalwart Wilmot Brookings Mitchell of Bowdoin. Last year we said our good-byes to Edwin Miner Wright of Bates, and to Morton Turner of Maine. This afternoon it is our turn to salute our senior member, Professor Carl Jefferson Weber, Litt.D., of Colby College. His appointment at Colby, trailing clouds of glory from Oxford, was made by President Arthur J. Roberts in March, 1919; his permanent tenure at Colby began in 1922, after an interlude at his Alma Mater, the Johns Hopkins University, and at the United States Naval Academy. Since that time, he has measured out his life, not in coffee spoons, but in Hardy Perennials. His bibliography already rivals that of Cotton Mather, and it is fearful to contemplate what will happen in the comparative leisure of emeritus-hood, the slippered pantaloons, and social security.

Years ago, things had reached such a pass that more than one College Board examination paper disclosed the prevailing impression that Thomas Hardy was a Colby classmate of Sarah Orne Jewett and Edwin Arlington Robinson, and that Diggory Venn finally disappeared in his wagon in an aura of red glory over the brow of Mayflower Hill.

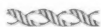
Professor Weber is not only a Keeper of Rare Books but a Garnerer of them, as well as an Onlie Begetter of choice collector's items. We recall his notable venture in guiding his honors students in their co-operative edition of *Far from the Madding Crowd*; we remember his stout insistence upon decent standards in the secondary schools; we are flooded with grateful memories of his many contributions to our annual sessions, the first of which he organized in 1929; of his pride in his Department, which he served as chairman for thirty years (1923-1953); of his solicitude for the future careers of his young instructors; of his generous interest in all our enterprises; of his founding of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY in 1943 and his editing of its volumes for the next sixteen years; of his

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visiting lectureships at the Universities of North Carolina, West Virginia, New York, Colorado, Southern California, and Maine.

We have all been beneficiaries of his industrious scholarship. And now we want him to know that we shall miss him at our annual meetings, and that it has been fun living in the same State and in the same decades with him. In return, we expect him to make things a trifle easier for us by showing a slight diminution of his notes, queries, articles, prefaces, and books. We pray that he will not take shameless advantage of his new freedom to be deliberately unfair to our organized indolence by doubling his output. We also cherish the hope that he will continue to drop in on us at our sessions as an elder statesman with the latest news from Stonehenge.

In the name of this company of scholars, I move the adoption of this Resolution, heavily freighted with our admiration and affection, and—in behalf of all his colleagues—wish him Godspeed.



By FREDERICK A. POTTLE:

Carl J. Weber, who founded the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY in 1943 and has carried it on single-handed ever since, has just retired from the Colby faculty at the end of forty years in the academic world. A condensed account of his many services to Colby follows and will bear close reading; what concerns us in this notice are merely his services to scholarship and to the Library. To put the matter briefly and soberly, he has brought into national and international notice a collection of books that in 1919, when he came to Waterville, was not only small but totally undistinguished. Collaborating closely with a series of able librarians whose main endeavor was to build up a sound and representative undergraduate library, he

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amassed a series of special research collections that any university would be proud to own. Few small colleges in America can show anything like the Treasure Room at Colby. The Thomas Hardy and Edwin Arlington Robinson Collections of books and manuscripts are known to scholars everywhere; dissertations for the doctorate in front-rank universities have been and are being based on Colby materials. That Professor Weber himself has been an indefatigable researcher and writer of books and articles, the bibliography in this issue of the *QUARTERLY* testifies. His acquaintance with dealers and collectors is as wide and intimate as his acquaintance within his own profession, and that must be one of the most extensive in the Modern Language Association.

The COLBY LIBRARY *QUARTERLY* has been admired not only for its contents but also for the unpretentious elegance of its format; what seems equally admirable to me as President of the Colby Library Associates is that not one penny of the Associates' contributions has ever gone into it.

As Director of the Colby College Press, another of his foundations, Professor Weber has produced many volumes advertising the resources of the Library, and by lavish contribution of his own time has made these volumes pay their own way. I am happy to adopt as my own summary of his work the opening sentence of the dedication of the Colby *Oracle* for 1956: "Carl Jefferson Weber has perhaps done more than any other person to establish Colby College in the world of scholarship."

For two years (1927-1929) Professor Weber served as a member of the Executive Committee which directed all the activities of the presidential office of the College during the interregnum between the administrations of President Arthur J. Roberts and President Franklin W. Johnson.

For three years (1926-1929) he was College Marshall, and for four years (1924-1928) he was Director of the College Extension Courses which he first proposed and inaugurated in 1924.

For five years (1925-1930) he was editor of the college catalogue and

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for thirteen years (1929-1942) he was Editor of *The Colby Mercury*. For another period of thirteen years (1946-1959) he has been Director of the Colby College Press.

For sixteen years (1943-1959) he served as Editor of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY, and for seventeen years (1923-1940) he was secretary-treasurer of the Colby Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. For the past nineteen years he has been Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts in the Colby College Library.

For thirty years (1923-1953) he served as Head of the Department of English, and was relieved of the responsibilities of this office six years ago at his own request. For thirty-seven years he has held the professorial title, for one year as assistant professor, for two years as associate professor, for two years as Professor of English, and for the past thirty-two years as Roberts Professor of English Literature.



By ERNEST C. MARRINER:

Carl Jefferson Weber would tell all inquirers that the collection of rare books and manuscripts at Colby College is the result of hundreds of individual contributions, and he would be speaking the truth. But the larger and more important truth is that, without Carl Weber, there would have been no collection at all. He has done much more than merely receive, arrange, and publicize the bountiful gifts. His thirty years of devoted service, his vast bibliographical knowledge, his dogged persistence, and his bursting enthusiasm have brought the Colby collection to the attention of libraries and scholars throughout the world.

Although Carl Weber joined the Colby faculty in 1919, it was not until 1929 that he began the assembling of rare books. For ten years he had diligently pressed for library accessions to fill serious gaps in the fields of English and American literature. He stimulated the purchase of such items as the *New English Dictionary* (Oxford) when it was still being published in parts, the *Variorum Shakespeare*, and sets of numerous writers in the best editions, as well as the definitive biographies.

Returning from a summer in England in 1929, Weber was encouraged by President Franklin Johnson to continue his studies of Thomas Hardy and begin publication of his now famous series of books concerning that poet and novelist. In order to implement his researches, Weber patiently collected, with very little expense to the college, the Hardy items which by 1950 had made Colby's Hardy collection the most important in the world.

Although a leading authority on Thomas Hardy, Dr. Weber is much more than "Colby's Hardy perennial." In 1937 he made the acquaintance of H. Bacon Collamore, a founder and treasurer of the Edwin Arlington Robinson Memorial Association, and through him met the poet's sister-in-law, Mrs. Herman Robinson, and her daughter Mrs. Nivison, as well as Miss Margaret Perry, who owned many Robinson letters and whose father had known the poet intimately at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. Hearing that the Association intended to establish a Robinson collection at Head Tide, Maine, the poet's birthplace, Dr. Weber vigorously pointed out the inaccessibility of that tiny community, the hazard of fire, and other shortcomings. He persistently sought to persuade the Association that the collection should be deposited in an institutional library, where it would be available to scholars. The Association finally agreed, and it was not too difficult for the man who had already won their confidence to induce them to place the collection in a special room in the new library of Colby College, a room which the college trustees agreed to name the Edwin Arlington Robinson Treasure Room.

The Hardy and Robinson collections were but the beginning. Dr. Weber quickly saw the appropriateness of assembling at Colby the works of outstanding Maine writers. One such neglected writer had been Jacob Abbott of "Rollo" fame, of whose writing Colby now has a large collection. Through the efforts of Dr. and Mrs. Weber

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and those of Professor Richard Cary, there is now a notable collection of writings by and about Sarah Orne Jewett of South Berwick. Many Maine writers have donated manuscripts, among which are Kenneth Roberts' *The Lively Lady*, Mary Ellen Chase's "Wormwood—For Thoughts," and John Gould's *The Fastest Hound Dog in the State of Maine*.

Most of the thousands of items now among Colby's rare books and manuscripts have come to the college because Carl Weber developed a warm, respected, personal relationship with booklovers and book collectors on both sides of the Atlantic. Those generous benefactors decided that a college with such a curator was a place where their gifts would be protected, used, and appreciated.



By ALFRED K. CHAPMAN:

Despite the importance of his other functions at Colby College, Professor Weber will remain to me first of all the teacher. It was in his classes that I received my first real introduction to the study of literature, and through many years as a member of his teaching staff in the English Department I have been the recipient of his advice and assistance.

Like many Colby graduates, I remember him as a strict teacher in his demands for thorough and detailed mastery of the literature studied. Also his pilgrimages to numerous literary landmarks often enabled him to add side-lights which brought the reading closer to the students. However, like the New Critics, he insisted on the primary importance of the text itself. In days when Colby's intellectual demands were far from what they are now, he contended unremittingly for better standards. His courses were known as "hard" courses, but were respected as among the most interesting and very best in the college.

As a young instructor I often had reason to be grateful for his suggestions and encouragement. He was never too busy to discuss classroom problems, ways of stirring student interest, or academic complexities of any sort. His stand on any academic question which came before the faculty was never in doubt, and it always looked toward the further improvement of the college.

From the outset, the library was one of the most important instruments of his teaching. When Professor Weber first came to Colby the library was small and hopelessly inadequate. To help provide the necessary books Professor Weber somehow persuaded the administration to allow him to assess every English student a fee of one dollar. For years most of these dollars went toward the purchase of English books for the library, and in this way he started to build up the fine English collection we now have.

He was always a builder, whether he was building a general library collection, the Treasure Room, a department, or the academic standards of the institution; or whether he was instilling into his students a love for and knowledge of literature, a training in clear thinking, or respect for standards of excellence. He is truly one of the builders of the new Colby, not merely in terms of the rare book collection which he created or of the reputation for scholarship his many publications have brought to the college, but, more fundamentally, in terms of the kind of education the college is now able to offer.



#### A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF CARL J. WEBER

IN his *Resolution in Honor of Carl J. Weber*, Professor Herbert Ross Brown alludes to the impressive length of Professor Weber's bibliography, adding humorously that it "already rivals that of Cotton Mather." At this point

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in Professor Weber's career it seems fitting to bring this bibliography up to date in a serviceable form.

The compiling of the present record has been greatly facilitated by the work of a former Colby librarian, N. Orwin Rush. His Colby College Monograph No. 10, *A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Carl J. Weber*, brought the record down to the end of 1943, and the present compilation has therefore called for the addition merely of the entries for the past fifteen years.

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*Hardy in America*: Waterville, Colby College Press, 1946.

*A Bibliography of Jacob Abbott*: Colby College Press, 1948.

*A Thousand and One Fore-Edge Paintings*: Colby College Press, 1949.

*A Centennial Bibliography of the Published Writings of Sarah Orne Jewett* (in collaboration with Clara Carter Weber): Colby College Press, 1949.

*Hardy and the Lady from Madison Square*: Colby College Press, 1952.

*English Versification*: fourth edition, in *The Colby Scholar*, November 1953, pages 3-21.

*Maine: Poets' Corner of America* (pamphlet): Augusta: The Department of Economic Development, State of Maine, 1957.

*The Pirates and The Woodlanders* (pamphlet): New York, Harper & Brothers, 1958.

### II. WORKS edited by CARL J. WEBER

*A Shropshire Lad* by A. E. Housman, Jubilee Edition, edited with Notes and Comments: Colby College Library, February 1946; second edition, July 1946; third edition, New York, Heritage Club Press, 1951.

*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy, edited with an Introduction in the Modern Library College Edition: New York, Random House, 1951.

*Letters of Thomas Hardy*, edited with Introduction, Notes, and Epilogue (illustrated): Colby College Press, 1954.

*Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy, edited with an Introduction: New York, Harper & Brothers, 1957.

*The Woodlanders* by Thomas Hardy, edited with an Introduction: Harper's Modern Classics, New York, Harper & Brothers, 1958.

*FitzGerald's Rubáiyát*, Centennial Edition, edited with an Introduction, Notes, and a Census of Extant Copies of the First Edition, and with a Bibliography of the *Rubáiyát* Collection in the Colby College Library compiled by James Humphry III: Waterville, Colby College Press, 1959.

*Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy, edited with an Introduction and Notes: "Rinehart Editions," New York, Rinehart & Co., 1959.

### III. CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

*Booker Memorial Studies*, edited by Hill Shine: Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1950; contains (pages 133-153) Weber's "The Tragedy in Little Hintock: New Light on Thomas Hardy's Novel *The Woodlanders*."

ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, New York, 1950: contains four articles by Weber: on *The Dynasts* (IX:469), *Far from the Madding Crowd* (XI:16), "Thomas Hardy" (XIII:705), and *Tess* (XXVI:452).

COLLIER CYCLOPEDIA, New York, 1950-51: contains eight articles by Weber on "Thomas Hardy" and his novels: VI:633; VII:580-581; IX:532; XI:469; XIII:292; XVI:694; XVIII:502-3; XIX:304 & 645.

*Nineteenth Century English Books: Some Problems in Bibliog-*

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*raphy*: Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1952; contains (pages 25-50) Weber's "American Editions of English Authors."

*In Tribute to Fred Anthoensen, Master Printer*: Portland, The Anthoensen Press, 1952; contains (pages 3-16) Weber's "Portland Printer."

THE NEW CENTURY CYCLOPEDIA OF NAMES: New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1954; contains (pages 1917 and 4104) Weber's "Thomas Hardy" and "Wessex."

*The Dorset Year Book for 1955-56*: London, The Society of Dorset Men in London, 1955; contains (pages 39-48) Weber's "Hermann Lea's Recollections of Thomas Hardy."

CYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD AUTHORS, edited by F. N. Magill and Dayton Kohler: New York, Salem Press, 1958; contains (pages 479-481) Weber's "Thomas Hardy."

### IV. CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS

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"The Bicentenary of Alexander Pope," *CLQ* (1:105-106, 109-111), June 1944.

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"Hardy's Deference to his Publishers," *CLQ* (1:148-150), January 1945.

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- "Fannie E. Ratchford's Letters of Wise to Wrenn" (review), *Modern Language Notes* (60:347-349), May 1945.
- "David Cecil's *Hardy*" (review), *Modern Philology*, May 1945.
- "Tragedy and the Good Life," *The Dalhousie Review* (25:225-233), July 1945.
- "Whittier and Sarah Orne Jewett," *New England Quarterly* (18:401-407), September 1945.
- "A Sung Dynasty Printing," *CLQ* (1:185-187), October 1945.
- "A Most Desirable Association Item (Rossetti's *Hand and Soul*)," *CLQ* (1:201-208), January 1946.
- "Jude from Obscurity via Notoriety to Fame," *CLQ* (1:209-215), January 1946.
- "The Manuscript of Hardy's *Two on a Tower*," *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (40:1-21), March 1946.
- "Sarah Orne Jewett's First Story," *New England Quarterly* (19:85-90), March 1946.
- "Two Notes from Emily Dickinson," *CLQ* (1:239-240), June 1946.
- "Cecil's *Hardy the Novelist*" (review), *Atlantic Monthly* (178:160-161), October 1946.
- "Fore-Edge Paintings," *CLQ* (1:263-264), October 1946.
- "Fifty Books from the Southworth Press," *Colby Alumnus* (36:2:18), November 1946.
- "Robinson's *Torrent* and *The Night Before*," *Saturday Review of Literature* (29:49:29), December 7, 1946.
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- "New England Through French Eyes Fifty Years Ago," *New England Quarterly* (20:385-396), September 1947.
- "Willa Cather's Call on Housman," *CLQ* (2:61-64), November 1947.

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- "The Centenary of *Evangeline*," *CLQ* (2:65-66), November 1947.
- "Illustrations in Holt's Leisure Hour Edition of Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd: The New Colophon* (1:84-85), January 1948.
- "Did Keats Read William Falconer?", *CLQ* (2:75-77), February 1948.
- "A Ghost from a Barber Shop," *The New Colophon* (1:184-189), April 1948.
- "With Admiration and Love," *CLQ* (2:85-108), May 1948; reprinted as a pamphlet under the title *Catalogue of a Sentimental Exhibition*.
- "Thomas Hardy as College Student," *CLQ* (2:113-115), August 1948.
- "Two Friends of Robinson," *CLQ* (2:147-152), February 1949.
- "*The Poetry of Thomas Hardy* by James Granville Southworth" (review), *Modern Language Quarterly* (10:121-123), March 1949.
- "Browning's Essay on Chatterton edited by Donald Smalley" (review), *Journal of English & Germanic Philology* (299-300), April 1949.
- "*On a Darkling Plain* by Harvey C. Webster" (review), *Modern Language Quarterly* (10:242-243), June 1949.
- "Midsummer Reverie of a Curator of Rare Books," *CLQ* (2:173-188), August 1949.
- "More Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett," *CLQ* (2:201-206), November 1949.
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- "Albert J. Guerard's *Thomas Hardy*" (review), *Nineteenth-Century Fiction* (4:315-318), March 1950.

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- "Eighteen-Fifty—'Annus Mirabilis'," *CLQ* (2:225-237), May 1950.
- "Books from Hardy's Max Gate Library," *CLQ* (2:246-254), August 1950.
- "*Tess* in the Theatre" (review of M. Roberts), *Nineteenth-Century Fiction* (5:242-245), December 1950.
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- "The Bicentenary of Gray's Elegy," *CLQ* (3:1-20), February 1951.
- "A Talk with George Bernard Shaw," *CLQ* (3:26-33), May 1951; reprinted in *The Shaw Bulletin* (No. 5:18-22), May 1954.
- "Fifty-one Manuscripts, 1451 to 1951," *CLQ* (3:37-44), August 1951.
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- "The First American Edition of the *Rubáiyát*," *CLQ* (3:80-82), February 1952.
- "Thomas Hardy in Yankeeland," *Yankee* (16:5:42, 46), May 1952.
- "A Letter from Jacob Abbott," *CLQ* (3:103-106), August 1952.
- "Three More Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett," *CLQ* (3:106-114), August 1952.
- "Hardy as a Writer for Boys," *Times Literary Supplement* (page 684), London, October 17, 1952.
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- "Mr. Wells and Vernon Lee," *CLQ* (3:129-133), November 1952.

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- "Letters from Gosse and Benson," *CLQ* (3:134-136), November 1952.
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- "Our Exploits at West Poley" (review of Purdy's edition of Hardy's story), *Nineteenth-Century Fiction* (7:307-308), March 1953.
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- "Coaching an Illustrator," *CLQ* (3:229-230), May 1954.
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- "A New Edition of the Dickens Carol," *CLQ* (3:260-262), November 1954.
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- "Bibliography of Thomas Hardy by R. L. Purdy" (review), *Modern Philology* (52:282-284), May 1955.
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- "A Centennial Reminder of Macaulay," *CLQ* (4:97-98), February 1956.
- "What's in a Name? Or in a Signature," *Manuscripts* (8:185-188), April 1956.
- "Forty Years in an Author's Life: A Dozen Letters from Thomas Hardy," *CLQ* (4:108-117), May 1956.

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- "Not Hardy's Verse . . . Swain's Authorship" [of "The Old Cottage Clock"], *New York Sun*, October 1, 1947.
- "Hardy Play is Explained," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 27, 1950, p. 11.
- "Central Maine—Poets' Corner of America," *Waterville Morning Sentinel*, March 3, 1954, pp. 16, 19.
- "Clarence H. White" (obit.), *Waterville Morning Sentinel*, April 21, 1958, p. 2.

## WEBER AND THE WESSEX GIANT

THROUGHOUT each of the preceding eulogia and down the entire length of the *Bibliography* the name of Thomas Hardy weaves itself like a strand of crimson ivy. There is no escaping the profound influence that the life and works of the Dorchester titan exerted upon the life and works of Carl J. Weber. Where did it all start? How did this phenomenal passion take root and flourish?

Our story opens in 1914 when, as a zetetic young Rhodes Scholar, Professor Weber was ruminating at large in Blackwell's famous bookshop in Oxford. With no particular target in mind, he wandered toward a shelf-full of what appeared to be novels by a T. Hardy. The name meant nothing. As he glanced across the line of titles, however, his eyes were drawn to *A Pair of Blue Eyes*. Something inside him tinkled; he purchased the volume and read it forthwith. It would strike a titillating note to record here that it was love at first sight. But, alas for romance, such was not the case. The book aroused no more than an urge to read a little further in the author.

Fourteen years must elapse and a change of scene occur before the spark is quickened. Upon news of Hardy's death in 1928, Professor Weber thought to mark the occasion with a review of Hardy's novels in the weekly "Prospero's Column" he was now conducting in the Water-ville *Morning Sentinel*. Of necessity, he read more of the novels at this time and was more deeply impressed.

But the incident which clinched matters had to wait until the following year. The first gathering of the Colby Faculty Club in the autumn of 1929 took place in the menage of Professor Everett F. Strong. The speaker of the evening, Professor Weber; his topic, a recent sojourn in the heart of Hardy country. Among the auditors that night sat Dr. Franklin W. Johnson, newly inducted President of Colby College. At the conclusion of the talk

he buttonholed Weber and suggested that he develop his themes into a full-scale book. In one of her electric short stories, Katherine Mansfield describes cognition in this manner: "She felt the strange beast that had slumbered so long within her bosom stir, stretch itself, yawn, prick up its ears, and suddenly bound to its feet." Some such apocalypse befell Weber. To supplement his own experiences, he conned the library catalogues for serviceable Hardy items. They contained nothing of consequence. The crusade was on—and the rest is history. Within twenty years that void was filled by the most inclusive collection of Thomas Hardy materials anywhere.

Principal among those who contributed moral and financial support, Professor Weber cites: G. Cecil Goddard who, early in the game, coaxed bibliophilic alumni to assist with useful sums; Carroll N. Perkins and Frederick A. Pottle, members of the Board of Trustees, who listened with sympathy and opened channels for acquisition; Carroll A. Wilson, Philo Calhoun, H. Bacon Collamore, Walter Beinecke, Jr., and H. Ridgely Bullock, who gave generously and continuously. Unreported, of course, is a numberless host out of the blue—unsolicited strangers and anonymous donors who surrendered their beloved chattels as the collection grew in worldwide repute.

If it is true—as Vincent Starrett has it—that "when we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness," then Carl J. Weber has left for all of us a sure legacy of happiness in the Treasure Room of Colby College.



## Editor's Epilogue

**Who's Who:** J. Seelye Bixler has been President of Colby College since 1942, coming from Harvard, where he was Bussey Professor of Theology. Besides a fat packet of periodical articles, Dr. Bixler has produced *Conversation With An Unrepentant Liberal, Immortality and the Present Mood, Religion For Free Minds*, and other searching volumes.

Herbert Ross Brown is Edward Little Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Bowdoin College, Managing Editor of the *New England Quarterly*, and author of the highly regarded *The Sentimental Novel In America*.

Frederick A. Pottle (Colby '17) is Sterling Professor of English Literature at Yale University, author of *Shelley and Browning, The Idiom of Poetry*, and editor of the sprightly series of scholarly best-sellers on James Boswell. Dr. Pottle organized and is permanent President of the Colby Library Associates.

Ernest C. Marriner (Colby '13) is best known for his two popular books on Maine life, *Kennebec Yesterdays* and *Remembered Maine*, and for his weekly radio broadcasts on Maine history, legend and personalities. He is currently Professor of English and official Historian of Colby College where, successively, he has served as Librarian, Dean of Men, and Dean of the Faculty.

Alfred K. Chapman (Colby '25) is now Professor of English and Chairman of that department in Colby College. He is familiar to readers of the *QUARTERLY* for his article on Thomas Bird Mosher, Maine's literary esthete and corsair.

**Nota Bene:** For the arresting new cover of the *QUARTERLY* we are indebted to the imagination and skill of Professor James M. Carpenter, Chairman of Colby's Fine Arts Department. Dr. Carpenter recently completed a fifteen-weeks TV course on the French Impressionists over a Maine network. He has under preparation a book tentatively titled *The Formal Role of Representation in Art*.

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## COLBY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Founded 1935

The object of this organization is to increase the resources of the Colby College Library by securing gifts and by providing funds for the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other materials which the Library could not otherwise acquire.

Membership is open to anyone at an annual subscription of five dollars or more (undergraduates, fifty cents; graduates of the College during the first five years after graduation, one dollar), or an equivalent gift of books or other materials needed by the Library. Members are invited to renew their memberships without special reminder at any date after July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

All members receive copies of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY and notification of the meetings of the society.

Officers for 1958-1959 are:

*President:* Frederick A. Pottle, Yale University.

*Vice-President:* Richard K. Kellenberger.

*Student Vice-Presidents:* Janice Coburn, '59; Donald D. Mordecai, '60.

*Secretary-Treasurer:* John R. McKenna.

*Committee on Book Purchases:* Clifford H. Osborne (term expires 1959); Arra M. Garab (term expires 1960); and (*ex officio*) the Vice-President and the Secretary.

*Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts:* Richard Cary.

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